

How and When to Tell Your Kids about Sex Talking about Petting – High School

“Julie, I want to tell you a bit more than I ever have before about the ways people who are dating might relate to each other sexually. I want you to understand exactly what can and does happen. I want to tell you about these things for several reasons: so you will firmly make up your mind now, ahead of time, about what you will and will not do. I also want you to know what can happen so you can see the warning signs if a boy is trying to get you to do something you shouldn’t do.

“Some of what I’m going to talk about I think is fine in the right relationship and at the right time. Much of what I’ll talk about I regard to be very wrong before marriage. I’ve already told you why I believe as I do about the rights and wrongs of petting. Now you need to know what can happen.

“The physical relationship usually begins with a kiss. But there are kisses and there are kisses. Kisses range from a quick smack on the lips to the kind of kissing where people’s mouths are open and they stay kissing for a long time. You have heard already that when people kiss like this they often touch with their tongues in each other’s mouths; you asked me about ‘French’ kissing years ago. This idea is really gross when you have never done it, but it is exciting and lovely with a person you really love and are attracted to. I would urge you to be cautious about who you kiss, and that you save kissing passionately for when you are older. You’re thirteen now, and will have a good amount of time to learn who you really care for and can trust.

“The boy or girl who finds his or her partner attractive and exciting will want to touch him or her. Touching often begins when a boy and girl hold hands, or put their arms around each other while walking, or give each other a hug. These can be very nice ways to express affection with someone you really care for. Some boys think that going out even on the first date means that you will touch like this, but you don’t have to. Even these kinds of touching can be really exciting. I hope that you will never think that the feeling of excitement means you are in love, because it doesn’t. You may feel sexually excited with someone you just have a crush on for a few days. Boys can and do feel sexually excited even with girls they don’t know or don’t like at all. Feeling sexually attracted does not mean you are in love.

“After kissing and hugging, the couple may move on to touching other parts of the body. You know that your genitals are the most sensitive and sexually exciting parts of your body. They are for a boy too. A girl’s breasts are the next most exciting area. But your whole body becomes more sexual as you grow up and especially as you are attracted to someone or feel you are in love. Some parts of your body are more sexual than others. That is why after kissing, some couples begin touching other parts of the body. A boy may want to kiss not only a girl’s lips, but also her face, neck, ears, or arms. Even more intimately, couples may want to touch the thighs and the bottom. This can feel good, but it can make it harder to make good decisions because it is more sexually exciting.

“Couples sometimes then move to touching the most sexual parts of the body on top of or through the clothes. Julie, I would urge you to have this be the point where you choose not to go along; I would urge you not to let a boy touch your breasts or any of the other things I’ll tell you about: It is too close, too intimate, and it can make it harder for you to say No to what could come later.

“Some couples may not do this kind of touching until they are ready to get married after dating for years, and some guys may try to do it on the first date. It can happen suddenly when the boy brushes his hand over the girl’s breasts. Remember, you never really know for sure what the other person is going to do. You have to know your limits and make your choices, and be ready to handle things you do not agree to. If she lets him, the boy may touch and feel the girl’s breast for a long time; he finds this really exciting and she does too. If they both want to go further, the boy and girl may move to touching their genital areas by touching each other between the legs; the boy may rub the girl’s genitals through the girl’s clothes, and the girl may rub his penis through his pants. This can be so sexually exciting to them that one or both may have an orgasm from this kind of touching. I think this is sad, as I believe that kind of sexual pleasure is something only a husband and wife should give each other.

“If they go further they will move to touching under their clothes. As I said earlier, this can happen quickly or slowly. It can happen as quickly as the boy suddenly slipping his hand under her shirt to touch her breast. Couples can go even further to touching their genitals under their clothes or with their clothes off. Here, clearly, they are getting so intimate, so close with their bodies, that they’re really sharing just about all of themselves. This is far too much intimacy when you aren’t married.

“I must warn you that a girl can get pregnant doing this even when she doesn’t have sex. If she is excited enough that her vagina is wet, and if the boy has an orgasm so that his semen spurts out, any semen that touches her wet area around the vagina can get her pregnant. The sperm will actually swim into her from the outside of the vagina even if his penis was never in her vagina during intercourse. This doesn’t happen often, but it’s not unknown.

“Some couples move from there right into having sexual intercourse. At this point, they have already been so intimate, they have shared and given so much of themselves to each other, that it is only a small step into intercourse. If they don’t have sexual intercourse for some reason (maybe one or both believe that is the only thing they won’t do, or perhaps they are very afraid of pregnancy), sadly there are still other things that some unmarried couples do. One is oral sex. Most kids find this gross to hear about, but many kids now do this and so we have to talk about it. You’ve probably heard about it. When couples have already touched with their hands all over their bodies, they can move the kissing from the lips to kissing the skin, to the boy kissing the girl’s breasts, to “kissing” each other’s genitals. This may not actually be sexual intercourse, but you can hardly get more intimate than this. You are totally sharing your bodies. That is why it is wrong.

“Another thing that couples do is called anal sex. This is where the couple has intercourse, because the boy’s penis goes into the girl’s body. But it does not go where it was intended to go, into the vagina, but instead it is put in her rectum, where her bowel movements come out. Apparently more couples are doing this today, in part because they think this is a smart way to have sex without the danger of pregnancy. Unfortunately, having sex this way is the very best way to transmit HIV, the AIDS virus. Because the rectum was not made for sex, it usually causes tearing and bleeding of the girl’s rectum. Anal sex also can pass bacteria that are in the rectum (and are harmless there because it is designed to handle them) to other areas of the body where they can cause terrible infections. I believe God did not make us to have anal intercourse.

“And that summarizes the kinds of things people can do between the time they first kiss and when they have intercourse. Sadly, some couples can experience almost all of these in one evening, when they rush from a first kiss through touching to intercourse. A couple who would do that have totally trashed God’s gift of their sexuality. Another couple may date for two years and only kiss before their wedding day, saving all touching and sharing of their bodies until their wedding day. Some couples date a long time before doing some touching, but go no further than light touching.

“Julie, your body is one of God’s most miraculous gifts to you. He has given you the capacity to feel attraction, feel love, feel sexual excitement, get pregnant and bear children, to be a wife and mother. This is a great gift. Any good feelings you would get from enjoying intercourse or lots of sexual touching outside of marriage would not be worth your disappointing God and making it harder for you to experience all of the joys God wants for you in your marriage or your single life. I pray you will set the right standards for yourself and make the right choices. I would like you to pray and reflect on what I have said, and decide what your standards should be.”